

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

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GS Greg Sharrow
I1 Hadley "Hap" Gaylord
I2 Hayden Gaylord
I3 Eloise Gaylord
Place Waitsfield, Vermont
Date June 10, 1991

I1 My _____ grew up here and he's a Brussels
Belgium. But he's not ours, but about the same
thing as. We put a lot into him.
GS So you were saying that your father was it? Or your
grandfather.
I1 Pearl Gaylord? Pearl Gaylord came from over in
Brookfield. Ya, he was entwined with the Kelloggs,
and the Kelloggs store up in Plainfield. They used
to be right there on the corner where you go up
through to St. Johnsbury? It's now changed to
something else. (I2-Used furniture store.)
GS Oh, the huge building right there.
I1 Ya, right there. There's a right-hand turn
(I2-motel or hotel, whatever it was.) I got a bible
with all those names and it tells Pearl Gaylord and
his brother Earl Gaylord. There were 2 boys, Earl
and Pearl, they were twins. [1:08]
GS And that was your father's generation or your
grandfather's.
I1 My grandfathers. My grandfather was Pearl Gaylord.
He had a son Walter Gaylord, and had a brother name
Richard Gaylord who was president of the Northfield
Savings Bank for 50 years. And there was Marshall
Gaylord. And he moved to Massachusetts and tied
down there. And there was Louise Gaylord, there
were 4. And she was in Massachusetts. She's dead
and gone. They're all gone now. And this Dr. Allen
of Randolph Center. lived right next to the

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

agriculture school in that brick house, where the bay window is. His dentist chair was in that bay window and he was a graduate of Tufts. [2:07] And also a farmer. Well I went in there in 1940, fall of '43. The barn was hitched to the house like in the olden days, you didn't have to go outdoors, you went right through a hallway and the woodshed and right out into the barn, in the wintertime you know to keep out of the snow. So I went in there, going in toward the back kitchen door to see uncle Herbert one afternoon. And I stepped on something it went "cackle, cackle". And I said Helen, that's a hen in a bag! Must be he's got a hen that's in molt, and they would put them in a bag to stop them from molting. So they'd lay back, go to laying quicker. [2:59] I found it on the door, uncle Herbert was a big huge guy. Probably weighed 225, big rugged son of a gun. "Who's there?" I said it's Hadley. "Come on in!" So I went in, I said what's that cackling out there in the bag? "Well," he said, "fella come up from Tunbridge with a tooth ache and a rooster and he left them both!" Didn't have any money! That's what they paid. And I'll never forget it as long as I live. What's that in that bag, uncle Herbert? Fella come up from Tunbridge with a tooth ache and rooster and he left them both! That dang Vermont answer if you ever heard one, isn't it something? I couldn't believe it. I'll go to my grave with that one. I laughed right out loud. I can see him now. [4:07] As I set in the dentist chair one day and I said I guess better have that one out. He said you want to take anything for it? And I said no. Well he said most people do. But I guess you're tougher than the rest. Well he said I better give you a shot of whiskey at least. So I took a shot of whiskey and he yanked the tooth right out on the lower jaw. Went right up in there with the forceps and out it came. It hurt, but it went out. Oh, he was a powerful man, oh man, what an arm he had on him.

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

I2 He's the same one that thing about the butcher shop. Somebody came around, asked him for donations or something.

I1 Oh gosh ya. Down in Randolph. No, that was Pelton's Meat Market down in Randolph. [5:15] And he was on the board, directors of the Randolph Bank. And the women's guild of raising money for the Gifford Memorial Hospital came around and said Bill, we need another donation. Well he said, girls, this the third time you've been here this summer, or fall. It was fall then. You go up there and you tell those sons of b's to run their butcher shop and I'll run mine! That's exactly what Bill Pelton told them. I can't believe he said it, but that's a true story. Uncle Richard used to tell that story. And Bill was a very quiet guy. I knew him. Cause I used to go down to Randolph once and awhile, and I met him. But I met him after I went to Vermont aggie school through uncle Richard one day. [6:18] And he used to come over here into the valley years ago. But he's dead and gone now and uncle Richard is too. So all that generation's pretty well gone. He had a brother named Harry Allen lived down here in Gaysville. Ya, Gaysville, Hancock, and there was another one, what was it? There were 3 places that I said that they were going to bury Rock Hudson. And they called up from some outfit called up who said he was settling Rock's estate, and he was going to bury his ashes, he heard Route 100 was a good place. And he called me and I said yes. [7:14] A good place to lay him away, you can take your pick. Gaysville, Hancock, and Middlesex. And the guy hung up the phone on me. Because I just heard that he died of aids or some other thing. So I gave him the word right over the phone. It didn't last long, he hung up.

GS So did you grow up over here or up in Brookfield?

I1 No, I grew up right down the road here about 2 miles from right here. Right here in the same house as my father was born in, born in the same room as my dad, in the same bed as my dad. And probably the

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

same bed as his mother, Lucia Hadley. [8:12] And she was the daughter of Moses E. Hadley. Her grandfather was Amos E. Hadley. He came from over in the Bavarian section of Austria, and came in here way back when there were no roads hardly at all. We think he came into Mystic, Connecticut by a sailing sloop, and then came up here by horse or rode it up here. Because there were no trains or no roads to speak of. And settled over on what is now German's Flats. And he named German Flats after his ancestors. And it still has the name today. And that's on the road between Sugar Bush South and Sugar Bush North. German Flats Road. It used to be farming country, pretty well all grown up. And now it's weekend warrior country. People from New Jersey and New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut have got their mountain chalets over there. [9:26] There's only one sugar place still operating, and that's the Marble, Paul Marble outfit. And he has a little small farm that he raises a few beef cattle. He's a retired insurance and former Air Force man, right? (I2-Air Guard.) That's the same Air Force, the United States.

GS Is your father a farmer?

I1 My father was a farmer, yup. Went to 2 years of high school here in Waitsfield along with my mother. That was all they had when they graduated in 1914 or 15. Then my father went over to Randolph. And the reason he went there why he knew his uncle Herbert Allen. [10:26] So he came back and settled on the farm where he grew up and took it over from Pearl Gaylord who ran it. And was brought over here from Brookfield by his wife Lucia Hadley, my grandmother, whom he met over there to the normal school. This is in 1886 or 1884 maybe when he met her, roughly I would say. I've got documentation of it, that's the way I remember it.

GS So this was the Hadley farm down here.

I1 Ya, Hadley farm. Moses Hadley was the son of Amos Hadley that named the German Flats road.[11:17] He married Angie Prentiss, Moses Hadley did. And out

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

of that marriage came this girl Lucia A. Hadley who met Pearl Gaylord over Randolph normal school. And brought Pearl over to Waitsfield and married him over here and they bought the farm from her father. And I've just inherited the farm from my mother's estate, part of the farm, the house the barn that he had and so forth, where I grew up before I went into the United States Army in 1945 when I went in. [12:04] Last of '44 and '45 I was in. So anyway. My son Hadley is now living there. So it's back in the same family again, most of it. (GS-Cattle?) No, there's no cattle down there. There's a big barn too. But he's got the cattle here, beef cattle. We ran it as a dairy farm. (GS-When you were growing up?) When I was growing up and did maple sugaring and all that sort of thing, raised sweet corn. Sold sweet corn to the Waterbury cannery, they had a cannery over in Waterbury. And we sold sweet corn every year, I remember it very well. We had electricity on the farm. Electricity in the rural areas of E. Warren and Waitsfield didn't come about until after World War II, when REA came in, Rural Electric Association came in and electrified the farms all over. [13:23]

GS Did you have it because you were down in the valley here?

I1 We had electricity. But those off the main line like Fayston and parts of Warren and E. Warren didn't have it. Only the main line. So I was born in 1924.

I2 [voice is faint and far from mic] they didn't get electricity at their farm until 1947.

I1 Ya, that's right. Who was that? Bob Bisbee. Oh ya, he lost his brother in World War II over in France in a jeep, land mine got him. Melvin Phillips, Kenny Phillips brother, German submarine nailed him in the Atlantic. Also the same as Norman Smith whom I knew, was a great baseball player. And I think he'd gone to West Point. And the other fellow in Moretown that was killed in a U.S. U Boat, German U

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

- Boat sunk them. Same with Norman Smith that was sunk. [14:48]
- GS You said you went to the agricultural school also. Did you intend to farm?
- I1 Ya, I liked farming, I intended to farm. I came back and helped my father 2 summers and then I got a letter from "Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the banks of the Hudson. You've been selected by your friends and neighbors to serve your country in the time of Waah." Same as everybody else got. So away I went. I was in the United States infantry. My outfit went to the Philippines when MacArthur returned for the final bail out. I got there just in time when it was all over. [15:40] The death march by the Japanese, when General Jonathan Wainwright was forced to march. They forced those men to march the Filipino regulars, and the Americans without water, food and everything. And when they fell and fainted they shot them right in the head, kept right on going. But it was a proud moment for Jonathan Wainwright who stood on the battle ship in Tokyo Bay and saw the conquerors who did all the dirty rotten work surrender with General MacArthur aboard the same ship, as the bombers flew over after dumped a big bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And I had never got over the killing and the smashing that they ever did. No way. I've never accepted it. This country allowing the Japanese take over our businesses, no way. [16:54] I don't buy it. I know the younger Japanese people are not to blame. But this thing called war, nobody wins. We may think we are triumphant in the world war with this latest fiasco in Saudi Arabia. But I think I can say it's big business as usual. And as a veteran I hate to say that because I believe in my country, but I'm fed up with the attitude that might will always make right. When we ask our young people who were born here in United States to go on to some foreign soil and shoot at somebody that you never even knew. We're treading

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

on top heavy on burying us and trying to drive us under here in this country, perhaps that be a little bit different. And to go over there and keep this thing up. In Vietnam we walked out on our men. [18:14] We left thousands of them there to rot. They're still there. Some in Korea. And we pin a medal on the man with a map of Afghanistan on his right forehead. No way when he shoots up the Baltics, Lithuania, and Estonia. And he says over the air ways oh my commanders must of done that, I don't know anything about it. No, I suppose when you're the chief of your country you don't know anything about it. It's convenient to say. So what he's still doing in Afghanistan, hum, makes one wonder doesn't it. What were you doing there, Mr. Gorbachev? And he hand you the Nobel Peace Prize for 1990? No way!

GS So when you came back from the war did you go back to the farm?

I1 Yes I did. I went to college first. I had credits at UVM. Also I went to Burlington Business College as well. That's where I met the lady in the kitchen. [19:41] And she's put up with me for 42 years. I don't know how she's put up with me but she has. (I3-can't make out.) She was working for the largest law firm in the state of Vermont when I met her. [20:00] Most of her former bosses as dead and gone. So we came back and my father at that time was a real estate man as well as an insurance agent and still farming. And he has this place for sale.

GS This place where you are right here?

I1 Yes. So I bought it. We've been here ever since. And I farmed here for how many years Eloise did we farm? Eight or ten? It doesn't make any difference I guess.

I3 Well Alan is, it was 9 years.

I1 We farmed 9 years. Produced fluid milk and sold it. And did some maple sugaring too. And I did some maple sugaring after I built the garage. 1957 I sold the herd and moved a carriage house that was

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

in the back yard that housed the horse and buggy days sleighs and sleds and buggies. And had been used strictly for that and it had an overhead room which really didn't have any use at all. Maybe a little bit of hay at times. But I never used it. And I parked my machinery in it and my car. [21:42] So I got a bright idea to go into the gasoline business after cruising route 100 after 4 o'clock in the afternoon clear in to Rutland, there was nobody open. And Mad River Glen was already here.

I3 It was 1958 that you did that.

I1 Mad River Glen was already here since 1948, a ski area. And we heard Sugar Bush was coming in and I said well it'll be a lot of traffic. So I jacked the building up and pulled it over there and put it in the field where I used to raise corn and hay and grazed my cattle. Put in a set of bathrooms and built that. And then I built a dairy bar next to it, and we ran that for over 24 years I guess. (I3-21.) And Mrs. Gaylord run that mostly with the help of local girls.

GS Seasonally or year around? (I3-Seasonal.)

I1 It was a very, very well run operation and very well liked by all the kids in the entire community because there was nobody else had any access to ice cream floats and soft cold drinks and hamburgers and hot dogs and you name it, fish and chicken, wings and so forth. [23:17] So it worked out very well. And ran that for many years. So after running it for about 22 years the garage was a 24 hour wrecker service which I was engaged in going to Sugar Bush. And met hundreds of people from out of state that still come here. Why I come down with the Asian flu. I turned it over to two of my sons, Walter and Alan Gaylord. And I had a very lucrative business. And believe me they kept me busy during Christmas and New Years and the holidays. [24:04] And when it was 25 below zero, boy oh boy, cars to start everywhere, hauling them in to start them. Ya, we sometimes ran almost 24 hours a day on weekends. And one year in 1967 I think it was we

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

ran the thing about 7 days straight, 24 hours a day. It was 35 below zero and they couldn't run the ski lifts at all. The wind was blowing, and it stayed cold. We had cars all over the place. I worked and worked, never went to bed for 6 days in a row. Worked right around the clock. [25:00]

GS So you caught the, you got going right at the beginning of the surge-

I1 Ya, of the big push of the ski world in the valley, I was in it, yes. I know hundreds of people, nice people from New Jersey and New York, New York City, all over the state of New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts. Tremendous amount of people. They still come here looking me up. And I changed the name from the gas companies that I had, I had Exxon and Texaco in the same lot over there. And I was one of 5 in the United States that had that. And I believe 3 of us were in the state of Vermont and all on route 100. [26:01] Chases gas and garage in Stowe, Vermont that's still there. He had Texaco and Mobil. Hayes Bros. (I2-Sinclair gas.) in Hardwick was another one, and they had Texaco and I don't know the other one, but they had 2 brands.

I2 [voice faint.] on the same road.

I1 Well it's the same area. And I had it down here, Exxon and Texaco. Well Texaco left the area by default where I was getting my gas in Montpelier and Barre. And they were shutting off shipping gas to Burlington. So I got it from a guy down on the New York border. Well he sold his gas company to his son, his son went bankrupt, Fuel Company. [27:02] So that left me out in the cold. So I put up a sign Hap's You Token Gas and bought my own gas. I run it that way. Until the sons took it over and they took on Sunoco after awhile. I had an automatic set up in the garage, a loud speaker system where I could talk to the people and put in self service, and the price of gas so that they could pump their own gas, because everybody was going that way. And I could say good morning, hello, how are you, and be very responsive. And

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

that worked out all right. But they went to a major brand, and discontinued that operation. So the interim probably changing their tanks, thanks to the bureaucracy.

GS I remember visiting a gas station in this area
maybe 20 25 years ago that had on the walls-
I1 Ici only parle par francais, heir spritz man
[german] Acino si hablo espanole. (GS-I thought
so.) Right. [Estonian.] "Here I don't speak
Estonian." [Latvian] "Here I don't speak Latvian
either." I put the Latvian up, an Estonian woman
that's still alive in a nursing home in Mayo
nursing home in Northfield gave me that sign. She
got out ahead of the Russians. [28:39] And the man
that gave me the Latvian sign came to the United
States with his parents into Lincoln, Mass. and he
taught at the Horrisman High school for 11 years
and married my cousin in Kinderhook, New York. And
they're Warren, Vermont, which they're fixing up.
And he is an artist.

GS How did you get started with all those different?
I1 [29:10] One day a man, huh? What you say Eloise?
I3 Well the first 2 I had I wrote. But somebody
mentioned it to you, yes.

I1 And I said let's put up the French sign [End of
tape 1, side A.] [tape 1, side B] Scullers
supposedly from all over the world, (GS-Breadloaf.)
where they meet in the summer and toward fall, and
then they all go back to their respective
countries. And I felt we're just adjacent to that,
why don't I try to cultivate more of these sayings.
And as the years went by, various people from these
various countries said hey, Hap, here's another one
for ya to put up. And we want to be, our country
want's to be represented and our race. So I kept
putting them up. This artist that came from Latvia
that married my cousin, he's a painter, an artist
as well as a good painter. So he painted some of
the signs for me. Some of the other people had the
signs painted, in narrow strips so that it wouldn't

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

take up too much room. I asked them not to make it too large so that I could put it up. So I had them all up there. [1:16] [Russian] "Here we don't speak Russian." I don't pronounce that one right. But I had that up. And one day to my great pleasure, a whole carload came in from this speaking arrangement during the summer holidays from none other than Breadloaf. Out piled a Russian and a German "Ah, he speaks everything here!" They failed to read the sign that said we do not speak either Russian or German! [German] And I stood there and I laughed right out loud. All of a sudden one of them said "Ah, no, he does not speak!" And they all laughed. Said he caught us, he caught us! [2:20] Because the first instance you see, you look at it and say ah, he speaks my language. You don't read it well. That goes to prove that people don't read the signs well. In fact you go down driving down the through way at 60 miles an hour and we see and sign and we want to take a right to some town, uh oh, what did that say? We go by that and just slow up and say well gosh, how can I turn around and go back? I can't back up. People don't read signs well. They're busy, they see it, and all of a sudden bang, they missed it. So that was the reason I put it up, saying we do not speak, see how many times I'd catch people flat-footed. Caught them pert near every time. Because they was so quick to read it and say ah, he's a linguist. I don't know how many times that came about. [3:26] Saying this man, oh boy, we are lucky, he's a linguist. Couldn't speak a word of their language, only English and just a few little words of French. So that's what took place. It went over very big.

GS I remember it made a lasting impression on me.
I1 Ya, you didn't see it anywhere. Hardly anywhere. Only in some restaurants after World War II, especially Italian or French you might say "Here we speak French or Italiano". That was another one I had [Italian.] Yes indeed.

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

GS How did you happen to decide to give up the cattle
 and go to a new enterprise? [4:15]

I3 The usual thing, money.

I1 Decided it was bigger money. And it was. [someone
 comes in.] Yes I handled thousands of dollars as
 opposed to hundreds and not too many thousand in
 exchange for the milk. But the wife liked farming
 better because I was home more. I was on the
 wrecker to beat the band by that 24 hour wrecker
 service. 2 o'clock in the morning, nothing for some
 doctor in New York call and said I just came from
 the Common Man Restaurant. And he said the roads
 seems to be a little white, Hap. Can you come up
 and pull me out? It got to be heading for New York
 tomorrow morning. [5:11] Ya, I'll be right up
 doctor. How much is it? Don't worry till I get
 there, I'll tell you. It'll be an office call like
 yours only double. You want me at this hour to
 perform an operation, I'm on my way. But you're
 going to pay. So I treated them very fairly. And
 these people keep coming back. They come out and
 find me in the garden now, look me up, call me up
 or they stop and leave notes. They've written to me
 and everything else. So I rubbed off onto a lot of
 people. A lot of them, oh boy. I could tell you
 stories. [6:00] I met Skitch Henderson the band
 leader. Ormando Orsini. People that came out of-

I2 [name] Buck Owens. A. J. Foyt.

I1 A. J. Foyt was here. I met Jack Kennedy at Sugar
 Bush. The man had said my fellow Americans, it's
 not what this country can do for you, it's what you
 can do for this country, to be exact. Bobbie, who
 was attorney general. "What did you say to Hoffa in
 the closed-door hearing?" He said brother Jack,
 your attorney general said if it's the last thing,
 Hoffa, I'll see you behind bars. He said well what
 did he say to you when you said that, Bobbie? He
 said you Kennedy's mind your business and I'll mind
 mine. [7:14] That's exactly. And they're both dead
 and gone, all 3 of them. For me, who knew and I
 liked Bobby better than any one of the Kennedys,

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

the attorney general. I always felt that organized labor took care of him as organized labor took care of Hoffa, who's wearing cement shoes in the back of a cadillac in some lake. And we know where Bobby Kennedy is. As far as I was concerned organized labor finished them both. Probably organized labor will finish me. I never had any use for any organized labor in the United States, none. They've taken over the work force with iron hands and stole them blind. Yup, that's the way I feel about organized labor.

GS I wanted to ask you about this area. Are we in Waitsfield now? [8:24]

I1 We are in Waitsfield township. 1791 established. This is the bicentennial year. Right Eloise? This is it. They've got big plans going on here in town of Waitsfield.

I2 Waitsfield is older than that.

I1 I didn't say it wasn't older.

I2 You made it sound like this year's bicentennial for the state was the same as-

GS Oh ya, that's what I figured. That surprised me cause Braintree was 1781.

I2 I believe that Waitsfield was (I3-1791.) No it's not.

I3 It's down on a sign by on the telephone office lawn there.

GS When you were growing up here I assume-

I1 I grew up during the depression.

GS And Kit Hartshorn was talking about the character of Warren. [9:29]

I1 The character of Warren was a mill town. And an agricultural town of farms. Horse and buggies and sleighs were still operating in 1929 and 1930.

I3 They were still rolling the roads through the snow in the wintertime in 1936.

GS Were you from this area also?

I3 I was from E. Warren.

GS So you were neighbors even though you met up north.

I3 Ya, we didn't know each other until we were in college.

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

I1 I run into her down in Burlington, in college.
GS Which was did you go to shop? Into Waitsfield?

I1 We went into Waitsfield, which was 2 miles from our house coming south on 100 into Waitsfield village. And we traded at the general store where you could get everything. [phone] Anything you wanted, from shoes, clothing, socks, night gowns, hats, coats, sweaters, underwear, boots, shoes, the works. You could get it all in town as well as food. Absolutely. Get the whole thing. [10:49] We had our own home-made ice cream. We had our own strawberries, we had all our own fruit for the most part. There was a lot of wild fruit, wild black berries, raspberries, we grew our own strawberries, we made our own ice cream with the hand operated. Then my father rigged up an electric motor, belt driven rig that he hitched up to the old-fashioned ice cream freezer crank rig and he belted it on to a pulley so that it would turn with an electric motor. We thought that was a great revelation, I remember that. [11:34] I learned to drive horses at a very young age and drive oxen. I was the last young man or even man who drove a pair of oxen to the blacksmith shop in Waitsfield to John Kingsbury through the covered bridge in 1939 or 40, a pair of Devon steers. And I wanted them shod on the front feet. He had a sling. And he put the oxen in the sling and cranked them up in the air. It went around their belly. And I can see him cranking it up now, he was a big man, John Kingsbury the blacksmith. [12:33] Shod them and I took them home. It was the last pair of oxen ever in the shop. And I also drove the horses there to have him shoe the horses. That's where everybody else in town came from and some from Fayston did too.

GS Kit said that toward the end her grandfather took horses up to Waitsfield too.

I1 Ya, because there was no horse shoer in Warren anymore. And of course every town used to have all these self-arranged services of their own because

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

we didn't have a railroad system or trucks and so forth. [13:15] I can remember when the road was plowed, I remember taking the last sleigh ride behind a nice Morgan horse. (I2-Made your point.)
17 what?

I2 1782, February 25th.

I1 1782, February 25th this town was organized. (I2-It was chartered.) But it comes around full circle for 1791. That's the state.

I2 That's the year that Vermont succeeded to the Union.

I1 I think Vermont ought to succeed from the Union and go to it's own country like we were before. We'd be better off with this state-side property tax that genera all right out of Massachusetts. So the speaker of the Vermont House and captain Governor Snelling has, going to shove that down our throats and put us all out of business. I'm not going to vote for it. Never well. Never in God's world will I vote for such a thing as that. Enough is a enough, so help us god. He needs all the help he can get. You better believe it. Holy cow. [14:39] And the cow ought to be holy. I took the census here in 1950 for the agricultural department. There were about 50 farms in Warren, Waitsfield and Fayston. Milking cows or had pigs or horses, and mostly cows. And young cattle. Pigs and everything else, hens. There are no farms left in Fayston at all, milking cows whatsoever. [15:15] There's one farm left in Warren, Vermont, the Depriest farm, pushing 300 head of cattle, milking cattle. That's the only farm left. There are 4 farmers in the town of Waitsfield, and out of the 4 2 of them are over 60, one's in his 40's and young Von Trapp, I don't know how old he is, maybe he's 35 or 36. [somebody turning in] So we're getting superlative ideology out on Route 100 here. [16:18]

GS What is the land that you farmed and that your father farmed here being used now? (I1-Oh ya.) Is there somebody,

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

- I1 One of my sons is still running this farm. We have about 100 head of beef cattle here. And we plant corn, we sell sweet corn. We sell vegetables. I just put up a green house and so forth. So we sell squash in the fall, pumpkins and the whole thing.
- GS So this garden that you work in lots of the time, it's not just for your household. This is a commercial enterprise.
- I1 Yes, it's become commercial. I was working in it this morning before you got here. I come in very tired. I was born on the wrong end of a hoe.
[17:15] That's the way you work around garden stuff. So we have a large gardens around. We put in brussels sprouts, cauliflower, strawberries and everything that you can imagine, peas, carrots, beats, and the whole thing, beans, and blue hubbard squash and squash all kind, acorn squash, so forth. We even sell rhubarb.
- GS Have you done it for years and years?
- I1 No. That got started mainly through my son, Hadley Gaylord Jr. We had some rhubarb and stuff and we wanted to get rid of it. And people were coming. Mrs. Gaylord her neighbor gave up hens. We had hens and poultry. So she sold the excess. And then it got to where people were coming here all the time for fresh eggs, farm fresh eggs. And we're the only people in the hole valley that's got any such arrangement I guess of farm fresh eggs. Who else has got it?
- I3 I don't know, but they tell about getting them other places.
- I1 Well they don't get them here in the valley. There isn't another sign anywhere.
- I3 Well it's in Moretown. There's 2 or 3 places in Moretown. There's one in Warren that I know about.
- I1 Not like the central point here, no.
- I3 Well they don't have as many eggs.
- GS Seems like a vegetable business, as many people from out of, who wouldn't have gardens. I haven't thought about it, it must be a real, you much have quite a crowd.

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

I1 We could have.
I3 Most everybody has a garden, but they don't plant
 all the different varieties of vegetables that we
 do here.
I2 And it's getting bigger and bigger.
I1 It's just getting bigger here all the time with us.
I2 I mean the sales here are actually bigger too.
I1 [19:34] I grew up on that old family farm, did
 maple sugaring. And I'm the last man that drew sap
 with a pair of oxen.
GS Was that why you had the oxen for sugaring?
I1 Well no. My father started up first for a hobby,
 and when he sold them as they got bigger and we
 were still in school, the oxen were getting bigger
 so he had to do something with it, so he sold them
 and put the money in a bank account for each one of
 us boys. And I guess he split it up and gave some
 to our sisters. There were 2 sisters and 2 boys.
 And so that's what happened. [20:20] It was a
 hobby.
I3 I could interject that your own sons started
 business very early. This one used to sell night
 crawlers, and half a one for a penny. And believe
 it or not the whole bunch got into the act. And by
 the time the youngest one was about 10 I guess or
 11, they decided to buy some machinery. That's how
 come they got into this farming.
GS You mean it started with night crawlers?
I3 It started with night crawlers. And then they used
 the money they earned, which was over \$1,400 in the
 end, and bought the equipment and started to get
 into farming.
I2 Bought the surplus equipment from the burned-out
 farm at Sugar farm up on the side of Sugar Bush.
GS To start the vegetable business? Or was that when
 you got into the cattle?
I2 We started basically buying the equipment in 1970.
 [21:18] I had just graduated from school. And we
 purchased a Holland 66 baler, and an old John Deere
 rake, a International 340 diesel tractor, and there

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

was another piece of equipment I at the moment
can't relate to.

I1 I kept my old Massey Ferguson.

I2 We had that was manufactured in '52.

I1 I had it here on the farm and that was in good
shape. And I had hydraulic harrows for that and
cultivator and plows. So that gave them a start and
they were using that. [22:07]

GS And what were you starting out?

I1 We had cattle.

I2 We had a few cattle (I1-That I kept.) a few beef
cattle, a couple of milkers. It was myself and my
wife, The animals were 4-H animals. Then I kind of
backed out of it a little bit, become a mechanic.
(GS-Over here.) I was already a mechanic at the
garage at that point. And I backed out of the
farming process to work on the equipment and stay
at the garage for an additional 5 years at that
point. [23:11] Then there were other things that we
did that went around and mowed all the farms that
were going out of business. Some that were old
farms that were already out of business, we cleared
lots for people. Stayed commercial on the other
side of the equipment, and at the same time taking
care of our own family farm.

GS So was that when you expanded then, the beef herd?
Was that the project that you?

I2 The beef herd came along at that point. And we
started buying in Angus, old white faced. Then we
had a couple farm accidents which are just that,
lost a few head. Fortunately one set that we lost
we had some insurance on, so we did recover a
little bit. But never recover all of it. Then we
purchased a tractor with a bucket loader on it. And
that might be in '74.

GS When you say we you men you and your brothers?

I2 Basically I was out of it by that point. Only thing
I was doing was working for them on the equipment
off and on. [24:54] Then about 4 years later I went
to work for John Deere Company on the
Barre-Montpelier road, and stayed there for a year

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

and a half. And I went on my own for 3 1/2 years doing the same thing. Then I went to St. Johnsbury, worked on another dealership for about a year until financially structured farm equipment went down the tube along with the whole herd buy-out program. And everybody tried to scrape and make a dollar. Of course the dollar wasn't there to be made, on the mechanical and equipment end. So that basically has folded a lot of farms up was the cost of equipment and the low projection price of milk. [26:05] I've seen in the last 3 years I did go back for Twin City Equipment in the last 3 years, I have seen the decline of agricultural community in the state so drastically bad that unless they can hire somebody like myself and do the repair of equipment, they cannot even afford to stay in the farming business. Fortunately being independent again can charge these people a reasonable price to repair their equipment. I make out, they make out. It's just like the truck that I'm preparing in the back yard to continue on the business. I'm swapping off the labors on one farm to get that truck. [27:12]

GS People bring you their headaches, as you bring your rooster too.

I2 Basically that's about what it amounts to. I guess you could say that the truck -

I1 There's the farmer. Here's Gaylord Jr. I don't know when he sleeps. He's moving.

GS You know something that I just realized; I somehow managed to get here without back up batteries for this recording machine.

I1 Remember what one old farmer said to another farmer up in Warren. He was hard of hearing, and his name was Bill Elliot. And he said to Warren Fuller one day, he saw Sugar Bush expanding and getting bigger all the time. Bill Elliot is dead and gone now, but he was hard of hearing so he couldn't hear himself talk worth a nickel. He always raised his voice and he had an unusual voice. And I can mock him to 100 percent. [28:20] And he saw Warren Fuller who was a

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

retired farmer and a blacksmith, sugar maker and everything else. And he said [shouts, turn down volume!] "Say! By god Warren. Sugar Bush going to get so dang big it's going to topple right over into Starksboro!" Well he said Bill, I guess you're right, if you say so. [Gives Greg some batteries.] Yup, that's what he said. And was a comical statement. Mr. Fuller used to trade with me and he told me about it one day. And so I learned to mock this Elliot. He spoke in that range, high pitched cause he thought people couldn't hear him. He was the one, he couldn't hear. So he could hardly hear himself talk. But the vibration was telling him that he was saying it all right. And that's exactly the way he talked. Remember Bill? Another man in the area here, Mr. Sterling Livingston would be a good man to go see. [29:48] He is a walking encyclopedia of knowledge of Warren, Fayston, and Waitsfield. He's older than I am. And he can even go back farther than I can. I don't go back much beyond 1930. Because I was born in 1924. And so I grew up in the depression and know what it was all about. We farm people made out OK. We had plenty to eat, but I can even remember young people, my parents taking in people now and then because they didn't think they had anymore than they ought to have had to eat for supper sometimes and clothing at Christmas time and so forth. We made sure that a lot of our neighbors that weren't very well to do had things. So we were self sufficient. We had our own maple syrup. We made our own ice cream, we had our own ice. [31:10] Up until World War II, even E. Warren and part of Waitsfield didn't have electricity up on these farms. They had the old Delco systems, a few of them. And some of them didn't even have that. They had lanterns they still used and kerosene lamps. Wasn't until Rural Electrification came in that Fayston had electricity, and that was after World War II. Boy oh boy, so big changes. And the old Waitsfield high

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

- school was where I went to school like hundreds of other people did, [End of tape 1, side B.]
- I1 The state aid and federal aid to education has taken away the tremendous local input into your school systems. And that's where I disagree with that formula because you got to have aids for this and that and the whole thing. Our high schools have actually become small type universities of the university type of proponents that suppose to excel in this ideology. And I don't think they're encompassing that at all. I think we're losing a lot of the parental control with local input by the taxpayer. It's been taken away from us by curriculum advisors and a tremendous athletic program. I believe that close to 2/3 of our young people are not going to go on to college because of financial ideology that they cannot keep up with it. And I feel that it's drifted away from us. Abraham Lincoln said in his speech after Gettysburg war and the Civil War, that this nation of the people by the people and for the people under God will never perish from this earth. [1:52] We have what become now a government of the government by the government and for the government. And when I hear governor Snelling or anybody else or Speaker Wright of the House of Representatives of the state of Vermont say we're going to have shove down our throats a state-wide property tax, good by Vermont. Good by local input. Good by democracy. [2:22]
- GS On the subject of schools and local input, so many people over where I live in the Braintree-Randolph-area, talk about how district school were community centers. (I1-That's right.) Living here growing up (I1-2 miles from the school.) did you have a neighborhood here? (I1-Yes.) when you were a kid. Was your neighborhood, did it go into the village, or did you have like a rural neighborhood?
- I1 No, we went into the village. We were lucky. We had a school built by one of the, fostered and perpetuated by a late man that worked hard at it,

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

and his name was George Wallace who lived here in the valley and his son still lives on the farm. [3:14] This went into actuality about 1918-20-23 somewhere in that area. Because I went to school there and I was not the first graduate of the high school at all. I graduated in '42. So it was run by the taxpayers of our town. And the PTA, the Parent-Teachers Association. And the families, the school directors. The school directors were native people of the town. And I'm not saying that the school directors are not native people that live here the community. Some of them are from other walks of life from other states that are on the school boards. I think they do a pretty good job. [4:12] But their hands are tied by the hamstringing of federal money and state aid money. They have to line up to a certain formula. Otherwise you don't get the state or federal aid. So with it has come all kinds of arrangements. Guidance counselors and so forth and curriculum counselors, expansion of athletics which is great. I don't know where they have the method of teaching anymore. A lot of places they don't even want to say the Lords Prayer in the school anymore, maybe salute the flag I hope. Sing maybe My Country Tis of Thee or the National Anthem. I don't know.

GS Did farmers change work here? [5:13]

I1 Farmers changed work a lot. Ya, they helped out. Somebody was sick, they went and did the haying, got the crops in.

GS Was it filling silo that people-

I1 Filling silos, they used to help do that. But the minute in came the new concept of farm machinery, everybody practically went on their own. So you had thousands of dollars tied up in farm machinery. It became big business. Fertilizer and gasoline and diesel and tractors, and all kinds of hydraulic equipment. So the horses went out about 1940-41-42-43. And after World War II it was strictly machinery. [6:13]

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

GS And was it farmed pretty much all the way between Warren and Waitsfield here?

I1 All through on the hill, the hill farms were still there. Anywhere here in Waitsfield. But there's only 4 left in Waitsfield, 1 in Warren, and 1 or 2 in Moretown down to the Scribner farm in Middlesex.

GS Does anybody ship milk between here and Warren?

I1 Let's see, from Warren village down to Waitsfield village, nope. No milk is being shipped only up

I2 It's being shipped from DePriests.

I1 DePriest farm is in Warren. But between Warren village on the main line, down to Spaulding farm is the first one, on the main line. [7:05]

GS And Spaulding's on the other side of Waitsfield?

I1 Yup, right next to my farm that I just inherited from my father and mother.

I2 There's still milk being shipped.

GS But not right where you are here?

I2 No, we're not shipping any milk.

I1 No milk shipped out of Fayston at all.

GS Is the river right in through here?

I1 The Mad River's right down there. (I2-At the end of this field.) Less than 700 feet away.

GS Has it played much of a role in your life here?

I1 Yes it has. It's a bountiful, nice lovely river. And we believe that the ski area, Sugar Bush trying to tap the river for water is strictly no-no, an absolute no-no. I will never accept that ideology. This is the 4th set of owners of that area. [8:12] To pump water out of the river and to dump gravel all over the place here along route 100, I don't accept that. If they can't get along with God-made snow and weather, they better forget the ski industry. Pumping the water out of the river is not their right, anymore than it is my right to pump it out. I'm thinking of having the town of Waitsfield develop a water system to sell Waitsfield bottle water. If they can pull that, why can't the rest of us pull it? As an agrarian man on the banks of the enraged Mad River I'm sick and tired of these

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

outfits coming in here. They sell about every 2 or 3 years to some other corporate outfit. And new owners come in with new ideas. What's good for the valley people? [9:10] Well I understand what good there is in the ski area. It provided a lot of business for my garage business and still does. But I don't think it gives them the right to pump water out of that river and take it away. What's to hinder them selling water up there out of the conduit? They already been short of water, at the bridges complex and every other place. They've tapped the Clay Brook, one of the most beautiful native trout brooks in the state. I think it's just about finished as far as I'm concerned, all the condominiums and everything else along the brook and places.

I2 One thing that's really come to be known since the ski industry took over, say took over in the mid 60's because the they had to basically work with us as valley people. [10:25] Because the only place they could get their employees was from the valley people at that point. There were still a few coming in from outside for employment. After the mid 60's we saw a lot of the sale of property along the mountain regions that we could not even walk on.

GS You mean because it was posted?

I2 Because it was national forest. And all of a sudden we no longer exist.

I1 Ya, they built a whole mountain on national forest. Where 1955 I couldn't even build a fire where the parking lot is up there. There's a \$10,000 fine for cutting a twig or cutting a fern or taking any wild flowers out of there, wild ferns. Strictly against the law. [11:28] It was a hunters paradise and so forth.

I2 The only wildlife that's up there now is the wild life that's coming in from out of state in automobiles.

I1 But I feel that the Winooski Soil Conservation district that I belong to in Montpelier should be standing right on its hind legs and saying no. And

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

the fish and game department of the state of Vermont and water resources board saying no, you cannot do this. But they're all heavy for further development. And I'm not saying but what the development has done some good for us in the gas station. I'm not saying it didn't. But they don't have to keep tearing this mountain up. They've got 2 mountains now, Glen Allen and Sugar Bush South and Sugar Bush North, over here at Glen Allen. They got it off from the United States forest department over there, and some of it was private land over at Sugar Bush North, which was Glen Allen. It's on the map as Glen Allen. This is the highest longest continuous range in the state of Vermont rising up there over 4,000 in the air. And Molly Stark mountain up there, was General Stark said if I survive this battle or Molly Stark will be a widow tomorrow morning. Was that the battle of Bennington or battle of Hubbardton, I can't remember which. I ought to know my Vermont history, but I think it was the battle of Hubbardton perhaps where the turning point was, that General Stark was in on it. [13:08] Too bad the general isn't still with us today, and Ethan Allen. They'd turn the thing around. Anyway, we've seen the rise and fall of the agricultural world begin to diminish.

GS And does the river, some places river floods pretty regularly in the S. Randolph valley.

I1 This one floods too.

I2 _____ is one you can't determine where it's going to flood and when it's going to flood.

I1 It's called the Mad River, not the Mad River for nothing. It really gets mad. Roaring mad. It sure does. The 1927 and the '38 flood proved it, that we could have a flood. And that's another thing; they've opened up the mountains up there until I noticed last year most of the summer the river ran brown. [14:14] All the excavating and new stuff being put in the Glen Allen North, day after the day the water ran brown when it rained. Down out of the South Fayston Brook coming down from German

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

Flats way and up in Mad River area where the water comes down. Came into the Mad River day after day, nothing but soil coming down off the mountain when it rained. They had it all tore up all the way to the top. I heard water ran down hill. What it does it carries things with it. Such as soil, dirt, stones.

I2 That whole area was a total wipe-out, approximately 1850.

GS What area's that?

I1 They had the Flag Brook, was a big slide. I can't remember what year that was. But it's documented here in that book I think.

GS You mean a chunk of the mountain let loose?

I2 The whole thing slid.

I1 Ya, it was renamed the Slide Brook. It came down, and in the fall of the year you can see it, there's a scar on the mountain.

GS Cause it been over cut? [15:44]

I1 No, it was steep. All of a sudden it had a tremendous rain, and the whole thing gave away.

I2 They even had tornadoes back then.

GS Did the flooding affect your farming at all?

I1 I has to some degree. And exceedingly high water. We've seen it come down across the field. It comes down across the Maynard field down in Moretown. And also down I've seen it down by the Carpenter farm, and Messiers farm. And also on my father's and mother's old farm and the Spaulding farm down by the trailer park. I've seen water clear up to the trailer park that they've put in on that farm on agriculture land. And while it was a good idea, I said some day they'll regret that that park's ever there.

GS It's flood only in the spring or did it flood at other times of the year?

I1 In the fall of the year, and in the spring.

I2 [voice faint] and landslides. In 1841 there was a severe tornado in Fayston and Waitsfield. in the middle of town got the name of Lightning and Thunder, many acres of land were prostrated.

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

[17:16] And more tornado does say many towns in Washington County occurred in 1866. It's well remembered by many at the present day. [voice too faint.]

I1 My great grandfather Julius I. Palmer raised Morgan Arabian horses down below town about half a mile from my father's farm where I grew up. He raised these horses and raced them at the local fairs and at Saratoga. Put them on a boxcar in Middlesex Vermont and rode down to Rutland railroad in Burlington and went down to New York, Saratoga and raced in a high-wheeled wood sulky and my brother sold it. But it's gone. But today the farm has been sold, and I think some one is about take it over again. He had a brother, J. I. Palmer had a brother Wells Palmer that had 4 horses shot out from under him at the battle of Gettysburg.

I2 And I've got a picture of that laying right here. J.I. Palmer, with the medal. And do you remember what the J stood for? (I1-Julius.) Brother of John. [19:03] Was in the Fayston history.

GS These are all your mother's family?

I1 Yup. This is my mother's writing. She's dead and gone. Captain in the Civil War, J.I. Palmer. There the 2 brothers are.

I2 And one of the Palmers was one of the first wives to the Marble faction from Fayston.

I1 That's right, they were tied up with that.

I2 Was one of the first wives to the Marble faction that moved into the Fayston area. (GS-What's the Marble faction?) Family.

I1 He's referring to the faction as a family. This man here had Fred Palmer, my mother's father. I never knew this man. But I lived and he lived to give me an 1864 silver dollar. [20:13] I can remember when he had a beard that hung below his navel. But I never knew this one. He died before his brother did. But I didn't get any of the Civil War artifacts. This whole book stuff here is all stuff came from that farm, and I got that. This is some unusual arrangement. You've seen these before.

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

(GS-Ya.) This is the son of this man. I remember him very well. Brother to my grandfather. [looking at pictures. 21:20] Mrs. P.V. Gaylord. (GS-That your mother?) No, that's my grandmother. Oh I know, a year in heaven, 1928, I was just 4 years old. (GS-It's a poem.) Ya, about my grandmother. It was written, no it doesn't say. Mrs. Pearl B. Gaylord. It was written on her stationary. And that was a poem written by a neighbor of hers that knew her. "A Year in Heaven". This is after one year of death. I'll be darn. This is my mother when she was a little girl. Sydney Clifford, son of Harry. [voice to faint, identifying pictures. 22:33] This is me in my World War, my father's World War I uniform, last year in the parade, Warren, Vermont. parade for 40 some years.

GS So how did you happen to lead the parade in Warren if you live in Waitsfield?

I1 The American Legion unit number 75 of Waitsfield, Made River Valley. We started it, after World War II.

GS Isn't there a parade in Waitsfield?

I1 No, it's all centered in Warren. We used to have them in Waitsfield, some many years ago before. But after World War II we started it in Warren for some reason. We had a get together up there and had appropriate grounds as opposed to we didn't have the grounds in Waitsfield to pull it off they had in Warren. So we picked Warren. And we promoted it to American Legion 75 of Mad River unit of Vermont. American Legion. And I've been in various arrangements. But I got into my father's World War I uniform, and that was it right there. Was the first time I ever wore it. Various replicas of various things, general George C. Patton, and my own uniform and so forth, dressed up as a sheik during the Arab oil embargo and had a harem with me.

GS Good lord, you must of kept quite a figure. [24:17]

I1 I've got pictures of it. And these are all pictures, some of them go clear over into Randolph.

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

- What was that, Aunt Helen, [pause] [Son reading from a book?]
- I2 Have been several landslides on the eastern slope of the Green Mountains. Through they might have started more on the Lincoln, they surely landed in Fayston. The first one was 1812, the longest slide occurred June 28 of 1827. There had been a heavy rain for some days, and noise from the slide was heard for miles. [can't make out] the next 4th of July. And reported the length of the slide was up to the clearing 200 rods, and from the turn of the lower end 280 rods. Greatest width, 24 rods. There was a jam from timber piled up at the lower end, 15 or 20 feet deep for a long distance. There was another in 1840. The most remarkable slide on the July 14, 1897. After a shower which lasted the whole night and most of the early morning. A heavy roaring sound was heard a long distance and for a long time. Those living near Brook, is what it's called today, soon saw a tremendous mass of floating trees, rocks and mud coming down the stream. It cleared a wide channel in its course as it went on it's way of destruction. Bridges, flumes and meadow land was swept away by its . Before the summer was over thousands of people from all about the country had visited it's wonderful course." [26:18]
- I1 That's right down here. Came right out of S. Fayston. This goes over into Randolph. These people lived in Randolph. Helen Holden Camp, just down below the Silver Dome farm. Frank and Gertrude Holden, Frank or Francis son of Josias Holden, brother of Helen and Holden Camp. And I knew Helen, and I knew him. They're both dead and gone and they were relatives of my mother.
- GS The Camps who live on the other side of N. Randolph, are they same bunch?
- I1 That's the same bunch. They were relatives.
- GS What's a clipper, a big sail boat?
- I1 I have no idea.
- GS So this is a real mixture of things.

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

I1 [looking at pictures. 27:32]
GS The river out here. Did you fish it when you were a kid?
I2 We've fished it a number of times. I can't say that my catch was the greatest, then again I'm not the greatest fisherman.
GS But have people in town (I2-Yes.) been involved with it for recreation? I mean fishing?
I2 Fishing, swimming.
I1 Oh yes, it's one of the great trout streams in the state.
I2 Of course the latest praise has been white water or rapid running, with the canoes and kayaks.
I1 There's a geriotype.(GS-Nice crisp image.)
I2 Of course in the early days of in the area, nearer the end of the mills. As I understand it from reading of Woods history book which I don't have here today, it's over to Myrtles, so they can research more of their past. [29:03] There were mills as far up as at the end of this big field here.
I1 There were covered bridges all over the place. But they went out in the 1927 flood. [End of tape 2, side A] [Tape 2, side B] Well that's one of the oldest buildings
I2 That is the oldest. (I1-That's what it says? In there?) No, not in here. In the Waitsfield history book.
GS So mills in Waitsfield as well as, you say there was one right at the other end of this-
I2 There were 6 or 7 mills between the end of this field up here and the intersection of route 100 and route 17.
GS So there's quite a fall of water between here and there then.
I2 There's a flow of water, .
I1 There were 2 mills right there in the junction of 17. The Richardson Brothers mill was there, right up until after World War II.
GS What kind of mill was that?

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

- I1 It was a lumber mill. But just above it was a clapboard shingle mill. That went out, one of them did during the slide. But that was rebuilt. And it just simply went because of the no sales for the particular type of stuff that they were turning out, apparently. [1:15]
- I2 Right. There was one point in the Woodsville history, approximately 37 different types of mills, on the Mad River and the Millbrook stream in the next 2 and 2 1/2 miles.
- GS Within your memory growing up, were there any, aside from the 2 mills at the junction of route 17, were there any mills through this region?
- I1 Yup, there was a Walter Moriarty mill across the covered bridge in Waitsfield, that ran right up until after World War II. Elwin Kingsbury ran that mill afterwards. So did Walter's son Paul Moriarty. [2:08] And that mill ran and the grist mill ran, Riford Joslin, the Joslin Waitsfield grist mill in Waitsfield. And that ran right up until the 60's. And then that went out and that was the end of it. Delivery came from E.W. Bailey Co. in Montpelier a lot of it, and Blue Seal Feeds took over. The mills, let's see, any other lumber mills in Waitsfield. There wasn't at that time after World War II. The next mill was in Moretown, the Ward Lumber Co. had 3 mills going in Moretown. Lumber mills, and they're all gone except the shingle mill in Moretown. [3:03] A clapboard mill. So that ran right up until, some of it 1965-70, then they moved to Waterbury and that was the beginning of the end of the Ward Lumber Co. mills. Except for the clapboard mill that still runs. And they sold off a lot of their land. So that mill is gone. And let's see there weren't any other mills. Yes, there was one mill down below Waitsfield that Alvin Bettis, Richard Hoff ran after World War II, right across from the Turner farm. That's right. That was a water-power mill, and I think perhaps he had a motor, diesel-
- I2 The flume for it came across-

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

I1 The place that I owned, the Neil place that I owned.

GS And what did the produce there?

I1 They sawed lumber. [4:17] But that's gone. The mill business is about had it here, except there's one, Andrew Bard, Jr. has a small electric mill down at the foot of route 17.

GS I noticed somebody was sawing there a couple days ago.

I1 So he still has that.

I2 Back before it was converted by his father to electric was water powered.

I1 I don't remember that he ever had any water power in there. That was old diesel, no?

I2 I discussed it with Paul, he can remember it, cause he lived 17, most of his life there. [5:14] He says he can remember when the millwright was still up there for the water power.

I1 Across the road. That was owned by Richardson Brothers and Bard never ran that. Nope. He moved it down across the road. That was the end of it when Bard took it over. The one that's there now never ran-

I2 The one that's sitting as it is now, never ran water power, no.

GS But there was a water powered mill-

I1 Across the road. And the Richardson Brothers ran that for years. [6:03]

GS Did you haul logs to any of these mills?

I1 I've been to the Richardson Brothers more than once with my father years and years ago in the 30's. Yup. Taken some logs down to Moretown too, to the upper mill when Burton Ward and Merlin Ward were running it, and Kenneth Ward. They're all dead and gone now except Holly Ward and Richard Ward. Richard isn't in it anymore and Holly is in on the tail end of it. That's the end of the Ward Lumber Co. lumber business I guess to that degree.

GS These were small mills I assume that farmers would haul logs in to be sawed up. They didn't have their own crews that went out and cut or anything.

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

I1 Ward Lumber Co. did. Yes it did. They were big.
I2 This place here (GS-When you say here.) right here
before Norton owned it, and it was the Ed House
house of all things. And for this particular part
of town it was one of the bigger lumber camps in
the area. [7:24]
GS You mean this was used like as a dormitory? Or
where was the camp?
I2 This place here has had everything including a
murder in the attic. A murder in the attic. I can
even get grandma Mitchell down in Lyndonville to
tell you about that. She's still alive. She used to
travel into Klondike camp as a teenager and cook
for the men.
GS So was this like a dormitory? For this lumber camp.
I2 Basically was the place that they stacked the
lumber, before they hauled it off. The county road
came right through a little of the property and
exited right out here behind the barn. [8:15]
I1 That may be, that's the first I ever heard of that
yarn.
I2 It ain't no yarn.
I1 Well I don't care whatever it is, it's all right
with me.
GS So you folks work from different sources I take it.
I1 Well I didn't know anything about that. I knew that
they had, there was a dance hall up here, upstairs
where they held kitchen junkets. Because Ed House
played the organ, Eloise? (I3-I don't know that.)
One played the organ
I3 That history I don't know anything about. I knew
that Earl Long and Charlie used to play violin.
I1 Earl Long of course stayed here with Ed House, and
he remembers having these parties upstairs. The
floor made into a dance floor, wide board floor.
And they used to have an organ up there. Who lived
up-[discussion with his wife. 9:45] Not
McCloughlin. Oh my nerves. Well he used to meet
here. Ed played the organ. Earl of course grew up
and lived here for 14 years as according to what he
told me. And he played the violin. A guy named

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

McAllister played the violin, and he was a good friend of Ed House.

I3 McCullough didn't have something to do with it did he?

I1 No. (I2-Have you still got the post card picture?) Right there. That's shows a steam mill out in the front, across the-

I2 Now this is basically a fairgrounds, the old fairgrounds right up here on top of the flat, just off our property. (I1-In back of the Catholic church.) And right behind that,

I1 Go down the river, that's out in the field. [11:11]

I2 That's roads. The other road was off the county road that came through the middle of this property up here and across the flat. Because it's explained in detail, coming from the Poulson Brook that we own now. It comes straight through where I shot my first deer. It's the original county road went from there up through to where it meets with DePriests.

GS This steam mill here then, was it?

I2 It was less than a mile from here as the bird flies.

I1 To be more explanatory, take a look at the picture. There's the Waitsfield Federated church with the spire on it. This is the center of town. The covered bridge is right in here. [12:13] Because here's the steam mill and the river's right over here. And right over here was the grist mill, and there's that little building right there that's still there that Mr. Knight owns. And out in back of that was this steam mill. And here's the village cemetery, where my grandparents are buried. And all this Palmer crew that I showed you? That's on Mill Hill. Because there was a mill over in back here, and I never knew it when there was any mill over there. And I'm coming up 67. And it was gone before I was born. That mill was gone. And this land was all cleared clear down through almost way down, here is the general weight place and the old high school right here, Kenyon Farms down here. Here's

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

the Roaring Mad River right here again, pushing it's way down through the valley. [13:21]

GS So these mills, the lumber mills, aside from the Ward mill, were they just sort of small-scale, local enterprises? (I1-That's right.) So if you wanted to-

I1 You could haul your stuff in there and have it taken care of.

GS And then you could build your barn or add a shed or do whatever.

I1 Build a house or whatever you want.

GS The lumber wasn't shipped out.

I1 Some was later, by rail down to Middlesex. And then by truck when the trucks come in they were taking it down to Gardner, Massachusetts. The chair stock and all this sort of thing. Various avenues opened up with the automobiles roads and truck roads. Which were all entwined in one now. That's what the scoop is with that. [14:19] With transportation things began to change. Horses begun to go out. And oxen went out. And when I grew up went off to World War II I don't think there were over 4 tractors in the whole valley. They still doing all their farming with horses pretty much. Very few people had tractors. A crawler tractor was a rare (I2-) Well no, there was a few of them. The towns had them for plowing roads after the rollers went out, thank God.

I2 There was mentioned of the original or course is not where it is presently. The original road ran the ridge up here. And the other one on Hill. [15:28] Which is across the road.

I1 I know that, this is a long time ago.

I2 Being that it came out down where we know as the Bard

I1 That's one of them, and it came out over in on German Flats. The whole thing has changed. Down across from-

I2 And to walk some of that land today you would never know how they got through there.

GS Where did your father cut ice? [16:08]

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

- I1 We had a big pool at the end of the farm, a big what we called the swimming pool. And we cut some ice there. And then when I was growing up, that was before my time. And there's an ice house down on the old farm used strictly for ice for cooling milk and cream and so forth. And I remember when we put up ice there. Herb Smith constructed some kind of an ice pond right out in this area down in here, which you can't even see. And had a Model-T engine there, and used it, they had a saw hooked onto the thing somehow to drive it. And it was a big arm hitched to that, it was belt driven I guess. And they cut ice with that thing. I can see them now. [17:21]
- I2 Looked almost like a humongous cut off saw.
- I1 Right, that's what it was. And I can hear the old thing buzzing right now while I'm talking about it, Model-T engine. And they had a kind of a wooden chute that went down into the water, and the guys would get a hold of it with long ropes and pull the ice cake up with a horse hitched to it. A strap went around the cake of ice and it pulled up a chute with the horse. That's how they got it up out of the water, so they didn't have to go fishing. Now and then one of the guys would fall in, get all wet, have to haul him out. I remember that. [18:16] Then we'd put it on an our old 1928 truck, haul it down home. And before that there was these chain-driven, 2 people, very people had chain-driven white trucks. The late Mr. Eugene Johnsons father, Harold Johnson had one of those trucks and plowed route 100 with it. I remember with a wooden plow, I remember that plain as day. It didn't have any roof on the thing. Only finally he made one on it. And it was sitting in there driving that old chain-driven white truck plowing route 100. So they had those trucks and they used that, carted ice with them. [19:08] They ran kerosene in the radiators if they could, so it wouldn't freeze up, one thing and another, hope it wouldn't boil over. I remember running kerosene in

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

- that McCormick tractor in the radiator for awhile, when it was colder than the devil so it wouldn't freeze up. They'd start it up and move it. And when it would get hot, the darn kerosene would try to boil out, and if you weren't careful there'd be a fire with it. So they didn't use that much.
- GS Was it not possible to harvest ice from the river, cause the river-
- I1 Well you had to have a pool where you could have some depth. To get a cake ice out at least 2 feet deep, at least 2 by 2.
- GS So it was a pond activity.
- I1 Ya, and this was a pond activity that they rigged up somehow. I'm not sure but what it was they built a runway from the river and made a pond. I can't remember it all, but I know it was right in there. [20:23] I went there with my father once and I skated on it one year, in 1942 I think it was. I remember skating there one year before they cut the ice. We got together, the church youth group and shoveled it all off and we had a skating party there, I remember that. I went. So anyway there's been a lot of changes take place when the automobile and the truck came into being. That was the beginning of when farming begun to change.
- GS I sounded from what Kit said as though her comment was that there were all these mills in Warren until the '27 flood. And that the flood knocked most of them out, and that after that people went away to find work elsewhere, there just wasn't that much to do in Warren.
- I2 The same thing existed throughout the valley. (I1-Throughout the state.) Turn of the century there were actually more towns people in the surrounding towns and Waitsfield than there was in say 1945. Almost triple
- GS So the of population then took place in this century. (I2-Basically.)
- I1 Ya, the farming going out and the buy-out of the herds here 3-4 years ago.

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

- I2 I wish I had the Waitsfield history book here,
quote figures. Seems to me like there was 830
village residents before the flood of 1850. [22:25]
- GS She said then that Sugar Bush started up in the
50's. I assume that- (I1-1957-8?)
- I2 It started the same year that you opened the
garage. (I3-That was '58.)
- GS It seems like that must of been a real turning
point for life in the valley here. Or had it
already turned?
- I2 It had started turning, but it was not as, as I
mentioned before, it wasn't really a turning point
until approximately 1964-65. That was when
everything started to happen, built the new school
in town, new elementary school. [23:20] Then 3
years later we were faced with a union school. I
saw that in my own view as the thing that
discriminated against the local people. union on
the school. I saw in my personal view of the
situation I saw the loss of a lot of friends
because of the switching over from one school
system to another.
- I3 When you were brought up in a little family in your
school. And then all of a sudden it exploded.
- I2 Then all of a sudden you weren't there anymore. So
we didn't exist any longer. I went to Harwood for 2
years. We didn't really exist anymore as young
human beings, we existed as numbers when you walked
through the door at that school. And the minute we
existed as a number, it wasn't worth anything to us
anymore. [24:43] You clamored to make new friends,
but it seemed to be a constant tug-o-war. Most of
your friendships that you could start to develop.
It wasn't community-oriented at all, from what I
saw. It was like here you are now, get in there and
do what we tell you to do, not what you need to do.
And that's the way I felt about it. And then
subsequently I got to a point where the union
school factored to me meant absolutely nothing to
the point I wanted to quit. At that point I moved

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

- on to St. Johnsbury trade school. [phone for
Danny.]
- GS So someone who has lived here all of your life, and
I can just imagine you saying well not all of my
life yet, is immediate to Waitsfield, are you
involved-
- I1 In Waitsfield, yes we are. We're involved in the
life of Waitsfield. [26:10] As he indicated the
school has got so big it's like a small miniature
college. We don't know any of the teachers hardly
at all. We don't have any children in school, but
we foster and perpetuate our taxes that go to help
base their school of course, that's a big tax. Here
in the town of Waitsfield and our participation in
the Harwood Union High School, which encompasses
Waterbury and Moretown, Waitsfield, Fayston and
Warren, and so forth. And the elementary schools
were still faced with fostering and perpetuating
that in the tax base, and this is all good. [27:08]
But I believe we lost a lot of Parents Teacher
Association input by parents because of the bigger
school because of it's size. I believe it has some
good, very nice elements of it. But I never been
totally happy with the input of this union school.
It creates what I believe kind of a wall for some
of the valley students. I'm probably wrong, it's
been there so long now that kids probably don't
think anything about it anymore. That's the way it
was in their book and has been for a long time. So
with that acclimation perhaps there is no rivalry
amongst the students from Waterbury area in this
school towards the Waitsfield, Warren and Moretown
children. It's supposed to be a very cohesive thing
and probably much better. But I've always felt that
the bigger schools are like a big factory. [28:44]
You walk through the cafeteria and pick up reading
and writing and arithmetic and hope to get some of
the rest. It's shoved at ya like cafeteria style.
It's basically miniature university type of

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

ideology. The way I see it all over the country. I don't quite agree with it. I agree with a smaller school where there's more parent-taxpayer control. It's amazing to me that this country got as far as it did in World War II out of these small schools. But we've gone on ahead with this input by federal. It keeps coming down with harassment in my brain of the government, of the state, by the state, for the state. Of the people, by the people and for the people? Well I like of the people by the people and for the people better. And for that part basic democracy is the smaller unit. The most cohesive unit of democracy in the world is that unique unit, not huge where the board members don't hardly know each other. [30:29] May fraternize with each other at meetings but come from Moretown or maybe Waterbury. But we really don't know each other's lives too much, we're geographically spread out. Maybe it's a great thing. I still like the special atonement and legacy of by the people, for the people, of the people. To know exactly what your tax dollars are doing. I noticed that Harwood has taken on a curriculum advisor. In the day and age of shortage-[End of tape 2, side B]

I1 Not in the curriculum advisor is probably a very worthy person. I'm not saying that. Why do we need that for? It's like putting on an extra spoonful of whip cream on to the ice cream. Keep putting it on, keep putting it on awful easy. Got to have a special bookkeeper with a special office. Well the bookkeeper why don't she use the office in the building? We had to build a special office for him to keep track of the bookkeeping. Got to have privacy probably. But this is federal money, state aid money. Awful easy to apply for we want. We've got to have it for the guidelines, don't you understand people? You know the sweet refrain.

GS So are there things that bring you together with other people in Waitsfield? Are you involved in organizations?

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

- I1 Oh ya, we're involved in the church (GS-in the village?) in the village here. [1:27]
Congregational church, we go to that. I'm in American Legion and whole thing. We're involved in people coming here to the farm and seeing the cattle and piglets and everything else. We don't to get to many of the school functions, we don't have any children in school, but we have relatives that got children in school and friends that got children in school. And the meetings are over to Harwood and it's adjacent to us. [2:05] We're older now and our children are through the school and so forth. The taxes are more. The economy is way off, so what have you got? You got the bourgeois empire still operated on the same and more taxes. We got to have more. How do you get more when you're earning less? When the economy is in serious trouble. You kind of have to cut out some of the, well, waste baskets, not quite so many waste baskets. Can we stretch the tires on the school busses according to inspection, or can we cut out some of the basketball games when the buses coming home from some distant place at 2 o'clock in the morning in the wintertime? Or can we cut off some of the hockey games or the baseball games? I don't know what. Or the wrestling where you got wrestling meets? Sports are great, they're wonderful. [3:29]
But basic education comes before that, in my book.
- GS So have you gotten to know new people aside from through your business. Does the church include newer people?
- I1 Oh yes, we meet them. A lot of nice people have moved in here, yes they have. There's been a lot of people that moved in here that seemingly had more wampum than the rest of us perhaps with the ski huts they build. I refer to them as huts. I mean, 2 story adobe haciendas with a pool. And a Mercedes out front. Oh my nerves. Heaven above me. [4:21]
Nat King Cole said what makes her love me, what makes it all mine? Um. We'll play Brahms Lullaby now while they sing the national anthem and play

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

the Star Spangle Banner as Smirkoff comes marching home. The biggest ticker tape parades going on right now I suppose in New York City outside of the one that they had for Mandela or for Lindburgh, or for General MacArthur, heaven above me. We had one for Mandela, um. He was clear over here from Africa. Holy cow. [5:06] Maybe we ought to have a ticker tape parade for some of those that never came home from Vietnam or Korea or World War I or World War II, or any other skirmish. For those that never saw the light of day again. They were buried somewhere where nobody knows where they were buried after the bombs hit them. There weren't any pieces to pick up. So man has come home to himself on earth. Indeed he has.

GS So do the new people and the older people in terms of origins fit together well in Waitsfield? Does it all mesh?

I1 Seems to pretty good. Ya. Everybody seems to get along pretty darn good. [6:10] There are a lot of those that say the weekend warriors have just arrived. Friday night, 2 o'clock in the morning, 3 o'clock they come rolling off from interstate 89. Out of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts, Rhode Island. There are a lot of good people come up here. A lot of doctors, lawyers, teachers, influential people, a lot of normal every day. But by and large it's a better than average income family that has a second home up here. Some of the homes are beyond my imagination even on paper, say nothing about down at the local bank.

I2 [very faint.] Before I departed the school from home, I was about to say along the fact that I moved down to another school and graduated from that school. Was the simple fact that there was a mixing problem. And it basically came from the fact that having been born in this area, or to this area, the dreams or the reality of the dreams that started to grow up with were changed so drastically that we couldn't afford to fulfill those dreams.

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

GS You mean like in terms of what somebody wanted?
I2 From life, right. It changed the idea of becoming a
 mechanic and owning your own place to operate, to
 becoming a farmer wanting your own farm. There's
 very few. [8:18]
GS And what did it become? What kinds of things?
I2 It became a transient society. Transporting
 independents, possibly like myself, my father, my
 brothers and sister are still here. But we're not
 realizing the same economical benefits, even the
 western part of the state. Surely as you well know
 from Braintree, unless you can get in on a
 state-located job you don't get benefits that you
 were brought up to realize were there. [9:18] And
 it makes it very hard for somebody who doesn't want
 to move on.
GS I see. So what you're talking about is the
 difficulty of making a living.
I2 Making a living is quite extremely difficult
 because you're butting heads with money. And the
 same old adage of course, have you gained credit
 without having credit? And such in that form all
 the way along. There's more to credit than money.
 There's self honor. You can't even describe self
 honor anymore without having to question. Used to
 be that you paid down to the hardware store, you
 went in and paid it weekly or monthly basis, and
 that gave you a credibility standing as far as the
 economical. And they gave you a credibilities to
 your truth. [10:32] So forth.
I1 Ya, that's pretty much all gone.
I2 That's all gone. You can't even go, myself I can't
 even go down to the local hardware store and I know
 the guy. He says because the credit card system is
 the only thing left, we can't give you any credit.
 So I don't have a charge account with him.
I1 It's the same story everywhere when it comes to
 that. We've become an automated society.
 Unfortunately you lost some of the perspective.
I2 It's true. You see almost 25 years ago, well
 there's Earl (I1-By golly, there's a man. He just

Hadley "Hap"; Hadyden; and Eloise Gaylord
/TC1991.2008

Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

drove in here. He's 87 years old. His brother
worked for me for years. [End of Interview.]